(e) whether the reservation norms meant for the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes have been followed while making the said allotments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Insurance Scheme

2471. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance scheme introduced by the Government for the benefit of railway passengers;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to increase the insurance amount to be provided to the dependents those killed and injured in rail accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring in any amendment in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said amendment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The salient features of the Railway Passengers Insurance Scheme are as under :

1. Under this scheme, Railway pay compensation for loss of life or injuries to bonafide passengers holding tickets or pass including railwaymen on duty who become vicitims of untoward incidents such as terrorist acts, violent attack, robbery, dacoity, rioting, shoot-out or arson by any person in or on any train carrying passengers, or in a waiting hall, clockroom or reservation or booking office or on any platform or in any palce within the precincts of a railway station or the accidental falling of any passenger from a train carrying passengers. Similarly compensation is also paid for death or injury to bonafide rail passengers or railwaymen on duty in a train accident.

2. The scale of compensation available under this scheme is provided in the Railway Accident (Compensation) Rules, 1990. Under these rules, the compensation in case of death or permanent disability is Rs. 2 lakhs, and in case of injuries the minimum compensation is Rs. 16,000/- and the maximum is Rs. 1,80.000/-

3. No compensation will, however, be payable in cases of suicide or attempted suicide, self-inflicted injury, his own criminal act, or any act committed in a state of intoxication or insanity or natural death or disease medical or surgical treatment unless such treatment becomes necessary due to injury caused by the said 'untoward incident'.

4. The application for compensation is adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal. Twenty one Benches of this Tribunal have been set up in different parts of the country. The decrees of the Railway Claims Tribunal are satisfied by the Zonal Railways after following the normal procedure.

(b) to (e) Keeping in view of the rise in Consumer Price Index, a proposal is under consideration to increase the amount of compensation to be paid to the dependents of dead and injured rail passengers and platform ticket holders who are involved in train accidents or untoward incidents as defined under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989. After a decision is taken in the matter, a notification prescribing the enhanced rates of compensation will be issued.

[English]

Wastage of Newsprint

2472. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the normal wastage of newsprint in a newspaper;

(b) the details of those newspapers which have shown a high percentage of wastage during 1996 and upto July, 1997;

(c) whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the remedial measure proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) No such information is maintained by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Export of Iron Ore

2473. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether iron ore extracted from Kudremukh area in Karnataka is being exported to Japan;

(b) if so, the quantity exported during the last three years;